



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CANADIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on Friday, April 5, 2002, June Anne Hooper, age 54 years old, of Phoenix, Arizona, pled guilty to Fraudulent Use of Social Security Account Number, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

The defendant, June Anne Hooper, a Canadian citizen, had been charged with violating Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B). In a statement in support of her guilty plea, Mrs. Hooper admitted to having used since 1982 the social security number assigned to Gillian Sankoff for the purpose of concealing her true identity and obtaining credit. There was an outstanding credit balance of \$170,000.00 against the fraudulently used social security number at the time of Mrs. Hooper's arrest. Investigators assigned to the case learned of the fraud when the victim, a former Canadian citizen and now a naturalized United States citizen, reported becoming aware of the misuse of her social security number during a routine credit check incident to a purchase. The victim had her social security card and other identity papers stolen while in Canada sometime in 1982, but the combination of her then Canadian citizenship and aversion to credit use, allowed the fraud to continue for 20 years. During those years, the defendant, Mrs. Hooper obtained an Arizona Driver's License, filed for a bankruptcy in Oklahoma and was arrested all while using the victim's social security number, according to court records.

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A conviction for Fraudulent Use of a Social Security Account Number carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Frederick J. Martone on June 24, 2002.

The investigation in this case was conducted by agents of the United States Department of the Treasury.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: WI-02-47-PHX-FJM
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